



**Finger Lakes**  
**Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
CHEMUNG, ONTARIO, SCHUYLER, SENECA, STEUBEN, AND YATES COUNTIES, NEW YORK  
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## Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 as a Teleconference.

### In Attendance:

#### **Chemung County**

Ken Bush, S&WCD Rep  
Dick Gunderman, Legislature Rep  
Karen Tillotson, Member @ Large

#### **Ontario County**

Doris Kenny, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)

#### **Schuyler County**

Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large Rep  
Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep

#### **Seneca County**

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep

#### **Steuben County**

Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep (Alternate)  
Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large  
Jeff Parker, S&WCD Rep  
Velynda Risley, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)

#### **Yates County**

Barb McGuffie, Member @ Large Rep  
Colby Petersen, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)

#### **RC&D Staff**

Dick Winnett, Coordinator, Finger Lakes RC&D Council  
Cheryl Faucett, Finger Lakes RC&D Secretary

**Meeting called to order** by Vice President, Ken Bush at **9:32a.m.**

### **Approval of Minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Council Meeting.**

**Doris Kenny moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner** and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. **Karen Tillotson moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley** and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

### **Communications:**

- Received a letter in November from the NYACD as an acknowledgement for a \$500.00 contribution to the October annual meeting held in Owego, NY. At the meeting Dick Winnett received a “Special Services” Award.
- Updated the Council on Lola, she is still at the Health Care Facility in Bath, anticipating going home soon. She still appreciates the cards.

### **County Reports:**

None

### **Coordinator’s Report:**

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant Applications** – On behalf of the Steuben County SWCD, the Council has prepared and submitted a \$262,395.00 grant application through Round 14 of the NYSEPF program. The application entitled “Southern Tier Prescribed Grazing” has identified 25 livestock farms in Chemung & Steuben Counties who will be eligible to receive up to \$8,800.00 in cost-sharing toward the implementation of the BMPs associated with prescribed grazing. Each participant will be required to contribute a minimum of 30% of their total project’s costs in the form of cash, labor, materials &/or use of equipment.

The Council has also assisted Seneca County SWCD with the preparation and submission of a \$228,264.50 grant through the NYSEPF Round 14 Non-point Source Pollution Abatement Control program. When the project is funded, state dollars will be used to assist 12 grape farms within the Seneca and Cayuga Lake Watersheds with the installation of agrichemical mixing facilities. The State’s contribution toward these agrichemical mixing facilities will range from \$5,250.00 - \$19,500.00. Funding from NRCS’ AMA program will be contributed toward 5 of the individual projects. The participating farms will be contributing a minimum of 23% of the overall project costs. **The NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee finalized ranking of Round 14 applications on 1/15/08. We should know on 1/17/08 where these two projects ranked.**

**Venison Donation Program** – Since April 1, 2007 35,665 pounds of venison has been processed, this equates to 142,660 meals served.

**Temporary Services Agreement** – This contract was completed as of 12/31/07 between Cheryl Faucett, Council Program Assistant, and NRCS. Cheryl entered data into NRCS’ Toolkit from grazing projects that the Council has completed via NYSEPF grants during 2007. Cheryl also assisted the Bath NRCS field office with entering FY 2008 EQIP applications into Toolkit. Steuben Co had over 100 EQIP applications.

**Conservation Innovative Grants** – Eight livestock farms have been signed up as participants under this \$48,000.00 grant awarded to the Council by NRCS. The farms are located throughout Western and Central New York State. The project’s consultant Four Winds Renewable Energy has already prepared two cost estimates with installation of one Solar Powered Livestock Watering System to begin in December 2007. One project is already completed and request for reimbursement has been submitted to NRCS.

**Rural Fire Protection** - The Council has assisted the Interlaken Fire District with purchasing the components for two dry hydrant units. The dry hydrants consist of a hydrant head which a pumper truck can attach its hoses and than draft water from a pond to fight a fire. The systems are not pressurized and are capable of providing approximately 1500 gallons of water/minute. Phil Griswold suggested Dale Stannard of the Interlaken Fire District contact the RC&D council for assistance in purchasing the dry hydrant components. The Council can purchase these components at 40% under the retail cost.

### **NRCS Report:**

- The President has signed the 2008 Omnibus Bill that funded the RC&D program at \$51,000,088.00 which is about the same as last year. Also, the President will be submitting his budget proposal in early February and we will have to see if he will try to cut RC&D's again.
- The Farm Bill is still being discussed in Congress, the recommendations that the National Association has suggested for RC&D in the Farm Bill are as follows:
  1. It would call for the Secretary of Agriculture to designate a Coordinator for each Council
  2. It would improve the technical assistance definition
  3. It would also add some verbiage about technical assistance where it would provide resources from the Department of Agriculture for local communities.This proposal is supposed to go to a conference committee later this month.

### **Old Business:**

- **Resubmission of small watershed proposal to National Fish & Wildlife Foundation** – Last year, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition approached the Council about submitting a grant proposal dealing with grazing and its' impact on water quality to the NFWF. The budget did not allow for earmarks in the fiscal year 2007 so the NFWF did not receive the funds that it was expecting, this year it appears the NFWF will get the earmark and have strongly encouraged the Council to resubmit this. This proposal is due by the end of February 2008.

### **New Business:**

- **NY Federation of RC&D Councils annual meeting** – Authorized 2 persons to attend from the Board – *Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to approve the authorization of 2 board members to attend.*
- **Agreement between Finger Lakes RC&D & Schenectady County SWCD and upfront initial cost**– *Elaine Dalrymple moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to approve the agreement between FL RC&D & Schenectady County SWCD and upfront initial cost of \$3,670.00 until reimbursement at end of March 2008.*
- Update on the annual report, it should be printed and mailed out by March 2008
- Ethics policy – RC&D will work on having one in place

**Appointment of Nominating Committee** – Velynda Risley, Steuben Co., Elaine Dalrymple, Schuyler Co., Tom Tomsa, Steuben Co.

**Appointment of Budget Committee** –Greg Heffner, Steuben Co., Velynda Risley, Steuben Co. Dick W. will provide technical support.

**Appointment of Ethics Committee** – Velynda Risley, Steuben Co., Timothy Hicks, Schuyler Co., Greg Heffner, Steuben Co.

### **Other Business: None**

### **Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):**

**Minimizing Risks on Prescribed Grazing Systems** – This grant if approved will allow participants to apply business management and grazing system knowledge and skills to successfully implement their respective grazing plans. The \$9,500.00 grant application is being submitted to the Northeast Center for Risk Management at the University of Delaware. *Motion to accept the Minimizing Risks on Prescribed Grazing Systems project by Velynda Risley and seconded by Dick Gunderman, carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, @ 1:00pm at the Dormann Library, Bath, NY. Directions to the library will accompany next meeting notice.

*Greg Heffner made a motion to adjourn at 10:22am and was seconded by Dick Gunderman, carried.*